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Where Do I Go from Here?: A Handbook for New Believers

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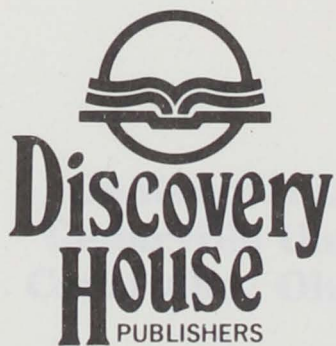
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Where Do I Go From Here?

Dave Krosz

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PUBLISHING BOOKS THAT FEED
THE SOUL WITH THE WORD OF GOD.

Where Do I Go From Here?

*A Handbook for
New Believers*

Dave Branon

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Introduction

She had never been to our church before. I knew that for certain.

A young woman. Maybe twenty-five years old. Black. And she sat next to my wife and me in our mostly white church that stands prominently in a changing neighborhood.

Although it is uncharacteristic of me to seek out and talk to visitors, I was eager to talk with her. I wanted more than anything to make her feel at home—to feel welcome. I wanted her to come back.

I noticed that when the missionary speaker that night asked us to turn to the book of Galatians in the Bible, she could not find it in her copy of the Scriptures. Afraid to offend her, yet sorry she couldn't locate the reading, I took the easy way out and did nothing. Maybe I should have helped her. Maybe not.

As soon as the final “Amen” was pronounced, I stuck out my hand, introduced myself, and began asking nosy questions.

What my wife and I found out as we talked with Pam was exciting. She had “found the Lord,” as she

called it, just a week or two earlier while watching a TV preacher. She couldn't recall the preacher's name, but she certainly seemed excited about what had happened in her life.

On this particular Sunday evening, as a new believer, she dressed up and headed for our church for one simple reason. It was close to her house.

"I just want to know more about the Lord," she said as we talked.

I knew that, although I hadn't been much help when she couldn't find Galatians, I wanted to help her now.

We took her name and address and noted her desire for a visit so our visitation pastor could call on her. And we handed her a copy of the devotional guide *Our Daily Bread*.

"This will help you by giving you something in the Bible to read every day," I explained.

As I thought about Pam and the many, many new Christians like her who are just beginning to grow accustomed to this new life of faith in Jesus Christ, I wondered if it wouldn't be helpful to them to have a beginner's handbook—a manual that could guide them through some of the key first things they need to know as new believers.

So, Pam, and everyone else trying to find Galatians and trying to understand all the other things that a lot of longtime Christians have discovered, this book is for you. It is one way we can say to you, "Welcome to the family."

Your decision to follow Jesus Christ and to commit your life to Him is great news! It not only assures you of a future home in heaven, but it also makes you a part of a rather remarkable, highly diverse

family—a family of faith.

You now have brothers and sisters of all colors, shapes, and backgrounds all over the world—people who will welcome you into their lives any time you need their help. You have friends in your community who will love to meet you and help you grow in your faith.

As all of us do, you will run into times of loneliness, trouble, and disappointment. When you do, you won't have to struggle alone.

In the family of faith are people from all walks of life and from all levels of society who will listen to your cares and direct you to the help that can be found in our guidebook for living—God's Word, the Bible. And of course you always have the help of God Himself, who is listening for your prayer. If you needed love, you came to the right place when you came to Jesus.

We are a family of faith, and we want to help. This book is one attempt at giving you a positive entrance into the new life that stretches out before you. As a new believer, you are probably wondering where you are supposed to go from here. Perhaps you want to know how your faith in Jesus Christ will affect your life and your future. If so, this book may be just what you need to get your spiritual bearings and to get your life headed in the way God would have you go.

May the ideas and suggestions and facts you read here, along with the experiences you have in your new family of faith, help you find the true happiness, peace, joy, and hope that can be yours as you develop a close relationship with our Father through Jesus Christ.

